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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): David E. Richardson

Confirmation No.: 1209

Application No.: 09/923,045

Examiner: Hailu, Tadesse

Filing Date: August 6, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2173

Title: Dynamically Drilling-Down Through A Health Monitoring Map To Determine The Health Status And Cause Of Health Problems Associated With Network Objects Of A Managed Network Environment (As Amended)

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on 12-02-2005.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) \$500.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

(X) (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> one month | \$120.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> two months | \$450.00 |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> four months | \$1590.00 |

☐ () The extension fee has already been filled in this application.

☐ () (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account **08-2025** the sum of \$2090.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 2, 2006
02 FC:1254 1590.00 DA

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PATENT

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In the Matter of the
Application of: David E. Richardson
Serial No.: 09/923,045
Filed: August 6, 2001
Entitled: DYNAMICALLY DRILLING-DOWN
THROUGH A HEALTH MONITORING
MAP TO DETERMINE THE HEALTH
STATUS AND CAUSE OF HEALTH
PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH
NETWORK OBJECTS OF A MANAGED
NETWORK ENVIRONMENT (AS
AMENDED)
Docket No.: 10990318-2

Group Art Unit: 2173
Examiner: Hailu, Tadesse

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief - Patents
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. of Houston, Texas. Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. derives its rights in this application by virtue of assignment of the application to Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

None

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 41-64 are currently pending in the present application, Application Number 09/923,045. Claims 41-64 have been at least twice rejected and, therefore, are subject to appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All Amendments have been entered.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent claim 41 is directed to a method for allowing a user to determine a health status of network objects in a managed network environment. This method comprises displaying a plurality of group view containers each corresponding to a group of network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute, and providing for each group view container an indicator representative of the overall health status of its corresponding group of network objects based on a health status of each of the group's network objects. Additionally, for each network object in a group of network objects corresponding to a user-selected group view container, this method includes displaying a representation of the network object, and providing an indicator representative of a health status of the network object as determined by at least one user-definable health characteristic of the network object. Also, for each of the at least one health characteristic of a user-selected network object, a representation of the health characteristic is displayed, and an indicator representative of a health status of the health characteristic is provided. Further, this method includes receiving

a user selection to modify one of the plurality of group view containers, presenting to the user, in response to the user selection, a user interface listing the user-definable group view attributes for the selected group view container, and receiving via the user interface a user modification of one or more of the listed group view attributes. Exemplary embodiments of this aspect of the claimed invention are disclosed at least in FIGS. 6 and 9 through 13 and the associated description at pages 11 and 14 through 17, respectively, of the specification.

Independent claim 58 is directed to a system for allowing a user to determine a health status of network objects in a managed network environment. This system includes means for displaying a plurality of group view containers each corresponding to a group of network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute, and for providing for each group view container an indicator representative of the overall health status of its corresponding group of network objects based on a health status of each of the group's network objects. The system also includes means for displaying a representation of the network object, and for providing an indicator representative of a health status of the network object as determined by at least one user-definable health characteristic of the network object for each network object in a group of network objects corresponding to a user-selected group view container. Further, means for displaying a representation of the at least one health characteristic, and for providing an indicator representative of a health status of the health characteristic, for each health characteristic of a user-selected network object are included in the system. Additionally, the system includes means for receiving a user selection to modify one of said plurality of group view containers, means for presenting to the user, in response to the user selection, a listing the user-definable group view attributes for the selected group view container, and means for receiving a user modification of one or more of the listed group view attributes. Exemplary embodiments of this aspect of the claimed invention are disclosed at least in FIGS. 6 and 9 through 13 and the associated description at pages 11 and 14 through 17, respectively, of the specification.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Whether the Examiner improperly rejected claims 41-56 under 25 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,374,293 to Dev, *et al.* (hereinafter “*Dev*”) when *Dev* neither discloses, teaches nor suggests “presenting to [a] user, in response to [a] user selection, a user interface listing the user-definable group view attributes for [a] selected group view container; and receiving via the user interface a user modification of one or more of the listed group view attributes.”

2. Whether the Examiner failed to clearly explain the pertinence of the cited reference in violation of 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by failing to provide any explanation of the relevance of the relied on portions of *Dev* when these relied on portions are made up of disjointed blocks of text or large sections of text.

VII. ARGUMENT

The following arguments address the above groups of claims based on the similarity of the rejections levied by the Examiner and/or by the similarity of the Applicant’s basis for traversing such rejections.

A. *Description of an Exemplary Embodiment of the Claimed Invention*

Embodiments of the present invention are directed to methods and system for determining the health of devices and services in a network environment. Problems associated with these network objects are provided to an administrator via a user interface who can then respond to and correct these problems. An example of such a user interface is described in Applicant’s application with reference to FIGs. 9-13. As shown in FIG. 9, which is reproduced below, a user interface 220 may be presented to an administrator that includes a network map 210 and two group view containers 248 and 250. A group view container is an object corresponding to a group view containing a group of network objects sharing a particular group view attribute. (*See*, Applicant’s substitute specification, pg. 14 lns. 6-8). For example, a group view may contain all network objects sharing a particular attribute (e.g., all ManageX-Servers for the network or all NMS servers for the network, *etc.*) In addition, the administrator may edit various user-definable attributes for the group view,

such as the name for the group view, the background graphic for the group view, the symbol for the group view, and the context for the group view. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 10 lns. 7-10.) A further description of an embodiment in which a user may edit user-definable attributes for a particular group view container is presented below.

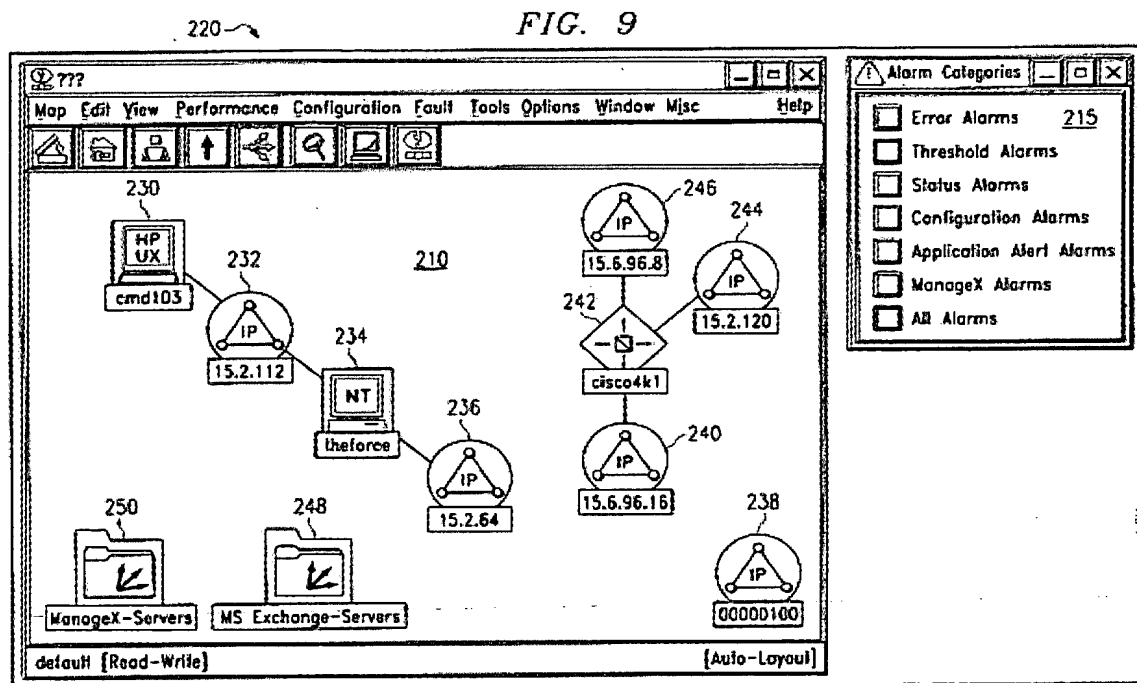


Fig. 9 of Applicant's Application

Each of the objects displayed by user interface 220 are displayed using a particular color that indicates the health of that particular object. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 16 lns. 22-30.) For example, all of the network objects in map 210 may be green to indicate they are healthy, while group view container 248 is brown and group view container 250 is red, indicating that there are problems within these group view containers. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 16 lns. 22-30.)

An administrator may then select the red group view container 250 by for example, double clicking it, to obtain more information regarding the problem. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 lns. 1-6.) In this embodiment, this group view container 250 contains the ManageX-Servers for the network. (See, Applicant's substitute specification,

pg. 17 Ins. 1-8.) In response to this selection, the user interface 265 displays a group view 260 that displays all the network objects for the group view container as illustrated in FIG. 10, which is reproduced below. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 1-8.)

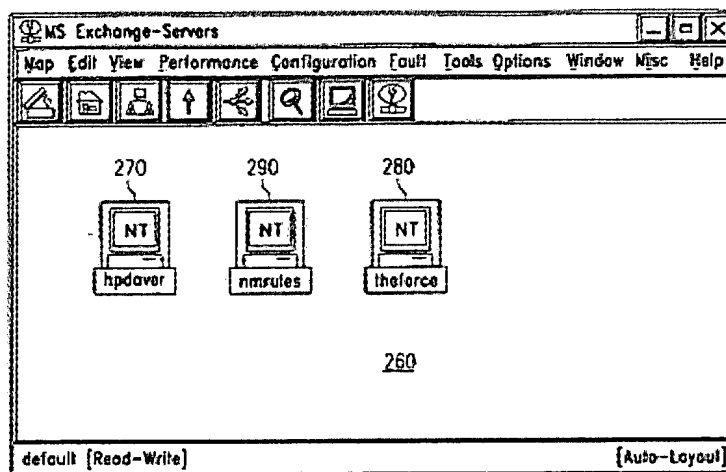


FIG. 10

Fig. 10 of Applicant's Application

As illustrated, ManageX-Servers group view container 260 contains three ManageX-servers hpdaver server 270, nmrules server 290, and theforce server 280. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 7-8.) At a glance, a network administrator can see which of the servers contained within group view 260 has a health problem. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 8-9.) hpdaver and theforce servers. 270, 280 are both green, while nmrules server 290 is blue. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 9-10.) The blue network object health status indicator of nmrules server 290 is the color blue, an indication of a poor health condition in this example. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 10-11.)

The administrator thus selects nmrules server 290, such as by clicking on it, to drill-down to the health characteristics of this network device in FIG. 11, which is reproduced below.

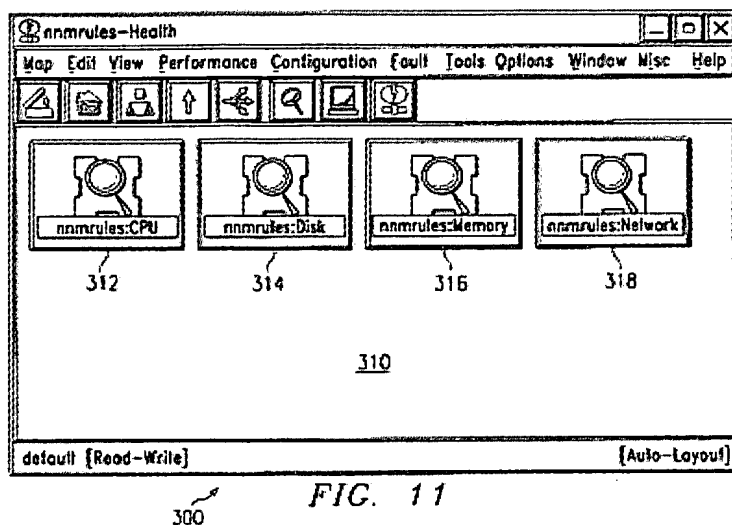


Fig. 11 of Applicant's Application

Displayed within GUI 300 are various health characteristics 310 for nnmrules server 290: nnmrules:CPU health characteristic 312, nnmrules:Disk health characteristic 314, nnmrules:Memory health characteristic 316, and nnmrules:Network health characteristic 318. These health characteristics refer to CPU utilization, disk utilization, memory utilization, and network utilization, respectively, for nnmrules server 290. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 12-22.) Only nnmrules:CPU health characteristic 312 has a health status indicator that is red; the health status indicators of the other health characteristics are green. Since red denotes an alarm in this example, the administrator can tell at a glance that the problem is with nnmrules server 290 and is caused by nnmrules:CPU health characteristic 312. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 22-25.)

Next, in order to determine the exact cause of the poor CPU utilization health status of nnmrules server 290, the administrator selects nnmrules:CPU health characteristic 312. As shown in FIG. 12, which is reproduced below, this causes a pop-up window 320 to appear within GUI 300. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 17 Ins. 25-31.)

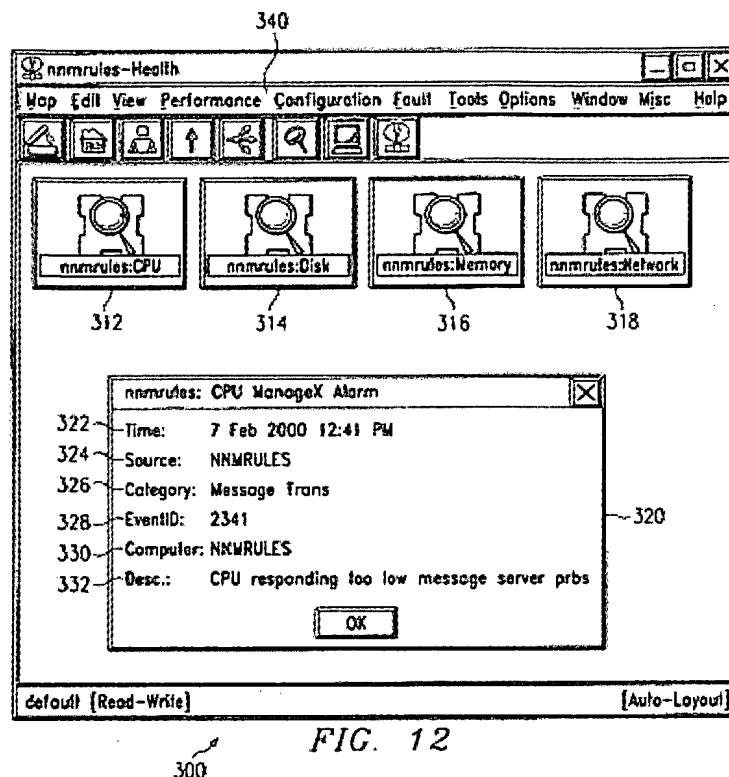


Fig. 12 of Applicant's Application

Window 320 displays a detailed message made up of information 322-332 that informs the administrator about the cause of the problem. Once the administrator has read the message displayed within window 320, the OK button 334 can be selected to exit window 320. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 18 lns. 1-5.) Thus, using this technique, the administrator may quickly identify that a problem exists and the causer of the problem.

As noted above, an administrator may edit user-definable attributes for the group view. The administrator may select to edit these user-definable attributes via the user interface. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 11 lns. 17-20.) In an embodiment, the attribute is modified using a user interface 110, such as illustrated in FIG. 6, which is reproduced below.

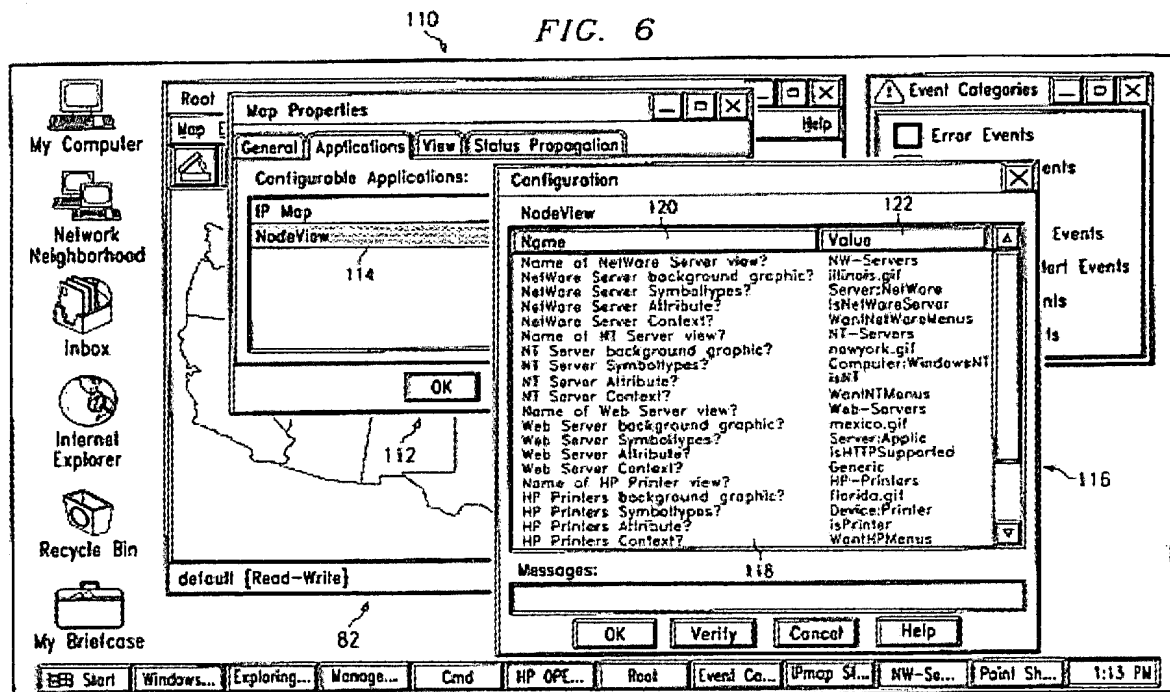


Fig. 6 of Applicant's Application

As shown, the user interface 110 displays an attribute list 118 that lists the group view attributes for the selected group view container by name 120 and value 122. The administrator may then edit a group view attribute from the attribute list 118 by selecting a particular user-definable group view attribute and modifying its value. (See, Applicant's substitute specification, pg. 11 lns. 20-25.) For example, the administrator may choose to modify the name for the group view, the background graphic for the group view, the symbol for the group view, and the context for the group view.

B. Dev Neither Discloses, Teaches Nor Suggests Applicant's User Interface in Independent Claims 41 and 58 Leaving The Office Action Without A Prima Facie Rejection

In the Office Action mailed October 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected independent claims 41 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Dev*. Specifically, the

Examiner asserts that *Dev* discloses a user interface as recited by independent claims 41 and 58. (See, Office Action, pg. 4.) For at least the reasons provided below, the Examiner's interpretation of *Dev* is incorrect resulting in an improper rejection that should be reversed.

Dev is directed to a network management system that includes a virtual network of models which represent network entites and relationships between network entities. A fair reading of *Dev* clearly shows that *Dev* fails to support the Examiner's interpretation that *Dev* discloses a user interface that displays a list of attributes that may be modified by a user. Particularly, claim 41 recites, "presenting to the user, in response to the user selection, a user interface listing the user-definable group view attributes for the selected group view container; and receiving via the user interface a user modification of one or more of the listed group view attributes" According to the Examiner, "*Dev* ... describes presenting to the user via the user interface [a] listing (see e.g., Alarm log display attributes, Fig. 10) of the network device attribute," and then refers to, "column 12, lines 22-56, column 13, lines 7-19, and column 13, lines 32-44," of the *Dev* reference. (See Final Office Action, page 4.)

The blocks of the *Dev* reference cited by the Examiner show that *Dev* fails to teach a user interface as recited in claim 41. For example, the Examiner incorrectly asserts that FIG. 10, which is reproduced below, discloses a user interface as claimed.

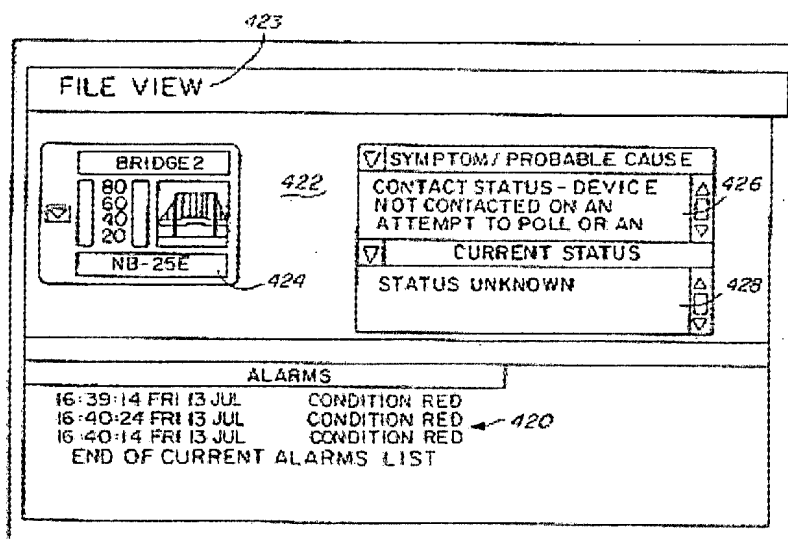


Fig. 10 of *Dev*

FIG. 10 of *Dev* illustrates an alarm log view that includes a listing of current alarms for the system. (See, *Dev* at col. 14 lns. 42.) These displayed alarms, however, are not attributes shared by a group of network objects belonging to a particular group view as claimed (See, Applicant's claim 1, "a group of network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute...") Rather, they are merely alarms indicating that a particular network event has occurred. (See, *Dev* at col. 2 lns. 64-66.) As such, they are not attributes shared by a group of objects as claimed, nor can they be modified by a user. Accordingly, neither FIG. 10 nor for that matter any portion of *Dev* discloses a user being able to modify these alarms via this alarm log view of FIG. 10.

In addition to FIG. 10, the Examiner also cited to column 12, lines 22-56. This portion, however, does not disclose displaying a user interface listing user-definable attributes that may be modified via the user interface. Rather, this portion discloses a hierarchy of views and entities, which a user can click, to obtain a view of the next lower level in the hierarchy. Particularly, this section describes different location display views of a network, where an icon representing a network location in the view of a network (Fig. 7A) may be clicked on to obtain the next lower level view (e.g., a view of the network location selected, Fig. 7B). Likewise, an icon in the location view (Fig. 7B) may be clicked on to obtain a lower level view (e.g., a view of a single room at the location - Fig. 7C). FIGs. 7A-7C are reproduced below. *Dev*, however, does not teach or suggest that this user interface can be used to modify a group view attribute.

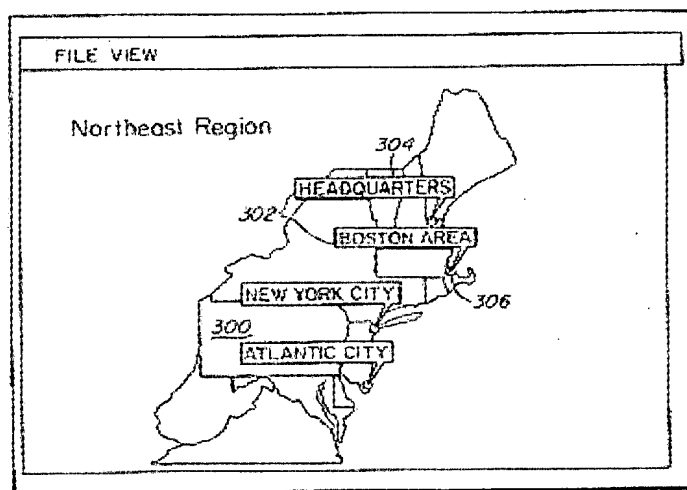


Fig. 7A of *Dev*

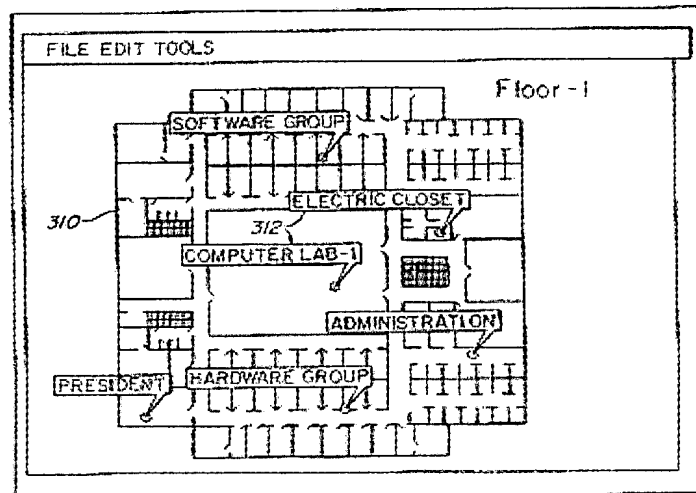


Fig. 7B of Dev

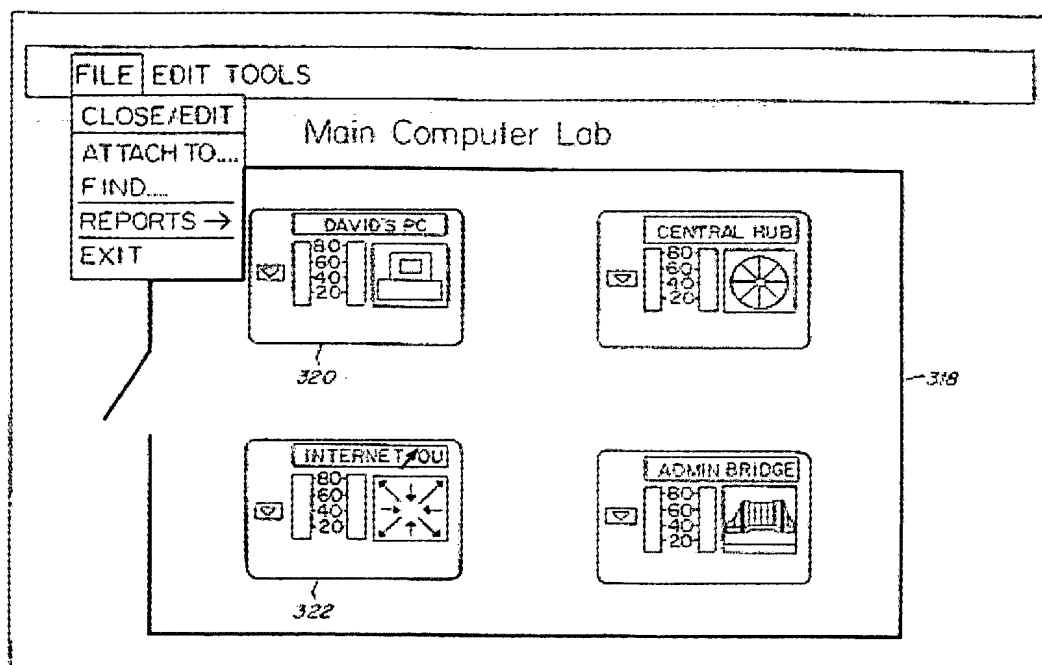


Fig. 7C of Dev

In response to this argument, the Examiner states in the Final Office Action that "since Dev's system is highly flexible and user configurable (column 3, lines 66-column 4

lines 20), using the user interface shown in Fig. 7C, [the] user can configure or modify the displayed network devices contained within a computer lab.” (See, Final Office Action at 9.)

Even assuming the Examiner is correct and the relied on section discloses that the Dev system is “highly flexible and user configurable,” there is nothing in the disclosure of Dev that even remotely suggests using the display views of Fig. 7 to modify a group view attribute. Moreover, the Examiner has not provided any citation to any portion of Dev that allegedly discloses that display views of Fig. 7 can be used in such a manner.

The second block to which the Examiner refers also fails to disclose a user-interface as recited in claim 41. This block, column 13, lines 7-19, as discussed in paragraph 11 of Applicants’ prior response, discloses traversing between location and topological views, by clicking icons or by pull-down menus. This block, however, fails to disclose a user-interface that is presented to the user that lists user-definable group view attributes that may be modified by the user and the Examiner has not cited to any disclosure of Dev that cures this defect.

The third block, column 13, lines 32-44, cited by the Examiner discusses an icon manager that is an instantiated C++ class for displaying icons via the above-discussed display views illustrated in Fig. 7 of Dev. This section, however, merely discloses that this icon manager can be used to change the appearance of displayed icon to indicate that its state has changed (e.g., to indicate that an error condition has occurred.) (See, Dev at col. 13 lns. 39-42.) This section, however, mentions nothing about a user being able to modify anything at all with a user interface, let alone an attribute shared by a group of network objects. As such, it likewise fails to disclose a user-interface that is presented to the user that lists user-definable group view attributes that may be modified by a user.

The Examiner also relied on a view personality module of Dev in rejecting independent claims 41 and 58. (See, Final Office Action at 4, 8.) This personality module, however, is not a user interface. In fact, Dev explicitly states that it is not a user interface. (See, Dev at col. 3 lns. 66-67, “A view personality module connected to user interface 10...”.) Rather, this view personality module contains a collection of data modules which permit the user interface to provide different views of the network. (See, Dev at col. 3 ln. 66 – col. 4 ln. 2.) Dev also discloses that by altering the personality module, the user can specify customized views or displays. (See, Dev at col. 4 lns. 12-13.) Moreover, by changing a

device personality module, the user can add new types of network devices to the system and by changing a protocol personality module, the system can operate with new or different network management protocols. (*See*, Dev at col. 4 lns. 13-18.) The software architecture for the system of *Dev* and accordingly these personality modules is disclosed as the C++ programming language, or a similar object oriented language. (*See*, Dev at col. 4 lns. 21-23; *also see*, Dev at col. 14 lns. 59-63.) Thus, this personality module is not a “user interface” that is presented to a user as claimed, but instead a software object (i.e., software code).

Additionally, nowhere does *Dev* disclose, nor has the Examiner identified any such portion, that this personality module lists attributes shared by a group of objects that may be modified by a user via the personality module. Thus, this personality module of *Dev* is not a user interface that lists attributes that may be modified by a user as claimed.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner also relied on col. 9 lines 21 – col. 10 line 11, in rejecting claims 41 and 58. (*See*, Final Office Action at pg. 4). This portion of *Dev* discloses a model type editor that may be used to modify and control models. (*See*, Dev at col. 9 lns. 21-22.) These models are disclosed as including network data relating to a corresponding network entity. (*See*, Dev at Abstract.) This section does not, however, disclose a user interface. This deficiency has been acknowledged by the Examiner with the Examiner’s reliance on other teachings of *Dev* as evidence that *Dev* disclose Applicant’s user interface. In particular, as noted above, the Examiner relies on the user displays described by FIG. 10 and FIGs. 7A-7C as allegedly disclosing a “user interface” as claimed.

Moreover, even if the Examiner did allege that this model type editor of *Dev* discloses a user interface, this model type editor does not list user-definable group view attributes for a selected group view container, as claimed. Thus, this model type editor likewise fails to teach or suggest a user interface that lists attributes that may be modified by a user.

Therefore, the numerous disjointed portions of the *Dev* reference relied on by the Examiner fail to disclose a user interface as recited in claim 41 and 58.

Since *Dev* does not teach every aspect of the claimed invention, it cannot be the proper basis for a 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection of anticipation, and thus the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie rejection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully request that the present application be allowed, or alternatively, that prosecution on the merits be reopened.

**C. Examiner Fails to Clearly Explain the Pertinence
of the Cited Reference in violation of 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2)**

According to 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2), “when a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant... the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified.” In the Examiner’s rejection of claims 41 – 64, the Examiner failed to meet this standard. Specifically, the Examiner has failed to clearly explain the pertinence of the reference and the portions of the reference upon which the Examiner relies.

In the claim rejections the Examiner first quotes or summarizes portions of Applicant’s claim, and then refers to various figures or blocks of text in Dev, which often are made up of disjointed blocks of text or to many lines of text. After referring to these figures and/or blocks of text, the Examiner fails to provide any explanation of their relevancy to the particular rejection.

As an example, the Examiner addresses Applicant’s claim 41 limitation “receiving a user selection to modify one of the plurality of group view containers,” in the second paragraph of page 4 in the Final Office Action. There, the Examiner states “Dev further describes that said network management system includes at least a user interface, that will enable user to interact, select, modify, etc. with one of the plurality of views (topological or location) of the network,” and refers to “column 3, lines 66 – column 3 [sic], lines 20,” and also to, “column 14, lines 57-75.” (See, Final Office Action, page 4, ¶2.) The Examiner provides no explanation whatsoever as to the pertinence of those two blocks of the Dev reference. The Applicant is wholly left to guess as to why or how those portions of the Dev reference are applicable to this limitation of Applicant’s claim 41.

Similar omissions of a clear explanation for portions of the Dev reference relied upon are found throughout the Final Office Action, including:

- on page 3, paragraphs 3 and 4;
- on page 4, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6;
- on page 5, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5;

- on page 6, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; and
- on page 7, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3.

Because the Examiner has failed to meet the standard specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by referring only to large blocks of text or figures, without clearly explaining their pertinence in rejecting Applicant's claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed, or alternatively, that prosecution on the merits be reopened.

D. Conclusion

For the reasons noted above, Applicant submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant request that the Examiner's rejection of these claims be reversed and that the pending application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 2, 2006

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1 41. A method for allowing a user to determine a health status of network objects in a
2 managed network environment, comprising:

3 displaying a plurality of group view containers each corresponding to a group of
4 network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute, and providing for
5 each group view container an indicator representative of the overall health status of its
6 corresponding group of network objects based on a health status of each of the group's
7 network objects;

8 for each network object in a group of network objects corresponding to a user-
9 selected group view container, displaying a representation of the network object, and
10 providing an indicator representative of a health status of the network object as determined by
11 at least one user-definable health characteristic of the network object;

12 for each of the at least one health characteristic of a user-selected network object,
13 displaying a representation of the health characteristic, and providing an indicator
14 representative of a health status of the health characteristic;

15 receiving a user selection to modify one of the plurality of group view containers;

16 presenting to the user, in response to the user selection, a user interface listing the
17 user-definable group view attributes for the selected group view container; and

18 receiving via the user interface a user modification of one or more of the listed group
19 view attributes.

1 42. The method of claim 41, further comprising:

2 for each user-selected health characteristic, displaying any event or trap message
3 indicative of an event affecting the health status of the user-selected health characteristic.

1 43. The method of claim 41, wherein providing a health status indicator of each health
2 characteristic comprises:

3 causing the health status indicator of the health characteristic to indicate a poor health
4 condition of the health characteristic when performance data of the health characteristic
5 violates a predetermined threshold of the health characteristic.

1 44. The method of claim 41, further comprising:

2 storing the at least one health characteristic for each network object in a health
3 characteristic configuration file of the corresponding group view to which the network object
4 belongs.

1 45. The method of claim 44, wherein the health characteristic configuration file

2 corresponding to each group of network objects is a registration file.

1 46. The method of claim 41, wherein the user can dynamically change network objects of a
2 group of network objects by changing one or more of the at least one user-definable group
3 view attribute of that group of network objects.

1 47. The method of claim 41, wherein the at least one health characteristic of a network object
2 comprises one or more of a group consisting of disk utilization, memory utilization, network
3 utilization, and processor utilization.

1 48. The method of claim 41, wherein the at least one of the network object is either a network
2 device or a network service of the managed network environment.

1 49. The method of claim 41, further comprising:

2 storing the at least one group view attribute for each group of network objects in a
3 attribute configuration file of the corresponding group to which the network object belongs.

1 50. The method of claim 49, wherein the attribute configuration file corresponding to each
2 group of network objects is a registration file.

1 51. The method of claim 41, wherein the indicator representative of the overall health status
2 of a corresponding group of network objects comprises either a color or a shape of an icon
3 representing the corresponding group view container.

1 52. The method of claim 41, wherein the indicator representative of the overall health status
2 of a corresponding group of network objects comprises an audible alarm.

1 53. The method of claim 41, wherein the indicator representative of the health status of a
2 network object comprises either a color or a shape of a displayed icon of the network object.

1 54. The method of claim 41, wherein the indicator representative of the health status of a
2 network object comprises an audible alarm.

1 55. The method of claim 42, wherein the event or trap message indicative of an event
2 affecting the health status of a user-selected health characteristic is stored as a field of the
3 network object for which the health characteristic is defined.

1 56. The method of claim 55, wherein the field comprises a field of the network object in an
2 alarm browser used in an Internet application.

1 57. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
2 determining context sensitive information of a user-selected group view; and
3 modifying, in accordance with the determined context information, at least one of a
4 menubar, popup menu, or toolbar included in the user interface when the user-selected group
5 view is selected by the user.

1 58. A system for allowing a user to determine a health status of network objects in a managed
2 network environment, comprising:

3 means for displaying a plurality of group view containers each corresponding to a
4 group of network objects sharing at least one user-definable group view attribute, and for
5 providing for each group view container an indicator representative of the overall health
6 status of its corresponding group of network objects based on a health status of each of the
7 group's network objects;

8 means for displaying a representation of the network object, and for providing an
9 indicator representative of a health status of the network object as determined by at least one
10 user-definable health characteristic of the network object for each network object in a group
11 of network objects corresponding to a user-selected group view container;

12 means for displaying a representation of the at least one health characteristic, and for
13 providing an indicator representative of a health status of the health characteristic, for each
14 health characteristic of a user-selected network object;

15 means for receiving a user selection to modify one of said plurality of group view
16 containers;

17 means for presenting to the user, in response to the user selection, a listing the user-
18 definable group view attributes for the selected group view container; and

19 means for receiving a user modification of one or more of the listed group view
20 attributes.

1 59. The system of claim 58, further comprising:

2 means for displaying any event or trap message indicative of an event affecting the
3 health status of the user-selected health characteristic for each user-selected health
4 characteristic.

1 60. The system of claim 58, wherein the means for providing a health status indicator of each
2 health characteristic comprises:

3 means for causing the health status indicator of the health characteristic to indicate a
4 poor health condition of the health characteristic when performance data of the health
5 characteristic violates a predetermined threshold of the health characteristic.

1 61. The system of claim 58, further comprising:

2 means for storing the at least one health characteristic for each network object in a
3 health characteristic configuration file of the corresponding group view to which the network
4 object belongs.

1 62. The system of claim 58, wherein the at least one of the network object is either a network
2 device or a network service of the managed network environment.

1 63. The system of claim 58, further comprising:

2 means for storing the at least one group attribute for each group of network objects in
3 a attribute configuration file of the corresponding group view to which the network object
4 belongs.

1 64. The system of claim 58, further comprising:

2 means for determining context sensitive information of a user-selected group view;
3 and

4 means for modifying, in accordance with the determined context information, at least
5 one of a menubar, popup menu, or toolbar included in the user interface when the user-
6 selected group view is selected by the user.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None

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